

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 179-75  
19 NOVEMBER 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

SECRET/NFD

1 OF 1

BRIEF

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 179-75-Y

1. ARGENTINA: THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ADVANCE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FROM 1977 TO LATE NEXT YEAR COULD LESSEN PRESSURE FOR PRESIDENT PERON TO RESIGN-Y

THE MOVE WAS PROBABLY URGED ON PERON BY TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A MILITARY TAKE-OVER THAT WOULD SCUTTLE THEIR OWN CHANCES OF COMPETING FOR THE PRESIDENCY. IT MAY CONSTITUTE A CONCESSION TO PERON'S CRITICS AND SIGNAL HER WILLINGNESS, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THEM. THEY, IN TURN, MAY BE DISARMED. NATIONAL ATTENTION WOULD QUICKLY FOCUS ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION-Y

THE DECISION COULD, HOWEVER, BE A PLOY DESIGNED TO EASE STRAINS TEMPORARILY WHILE PERON OR ONE OF HER INTIMATES CONTEMPLATES SOME SURPRISING MOVE TO THROW HER OPPONENTS OFF BALANCE. THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR THIS. {CONFIDENTIAL}Y

2.//MEXICO: THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WILL SOON BEGIN FOR THE FIRST TIME TO USE HERBICIDES TO DESTROY OPIUM AND MARIJUANA CROPS.//Y  
//THE SPRAYING WILL BE PART OF AN INTENSIFIED ERADICATION

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Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

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PAGE OF PAGES

2

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:

☐ NO INDEX

☐ RETURN TO PER

☐ IP FILES #

EAST ASIA BRIEF 177-75.4

1. THAILAND-LAOS: NO FURTHER FIGHTING HAS BEEN REPORTED, FOLLOWING THE SERIOUS BORDER CLASH ON THE MEKONG RIVER ON NOVEMBER 17 AND 18 BETWEEN LAOS AND THAILAND.4

25X1C ACCORDING TO [REDACTED], LAO FORCES DAMAGED ONE THAI NAVAL CRAFT, WHICH MAY HAVE STRAYED INTO LAO WATERS, AND INFLICTED SEVERAL CASUALTIES DURING A NINE-HOUR CLASH ON THE MEKONG SEVERAL MILES SOUTH OF VIENTIANE. THAI TROOPS, TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, AND MORTARS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SCENE, AND TWO THAI T-28S HAVE PROVIDED AIR COVER. THE LAO ALSO MOVED IN REINFORCEMENTS, INCLUDING TANKS. EACH SIDE IS BLAMING THE OTHER FOR THE INCIDENT.4

THE THAI HAVE RECALLED THEIR AMBASSADOR IN VIENTIANE "FOR CONSULTATIONS" AND HAVE CLOSED THE BORDER ACROSS FROM THE VIENTIANE AREA. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT TOLD THE PRESS ON NOVEMBER 18 THAT HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO MORE VIOLENCE, AND THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN ORDERED TO ARRANGE NEGOTIATIONS "TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE INCIDENTS." THE LAO, HOWEVER, HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO TALK WITH BANGKOK ABOUT REDUCING TENSIONS UNTIL THE THAI RESPOND

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## OUTGOING MESSAGE

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3		6		9	

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 PAGE 3 OF PAGES

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:☐ NO INDEX☐ RETURN TO PER☐ IP FILES #

FAVORABLY TO DEMANDS FOR THE RETURN OF LAO-CLAIMED MILITARY EQUIPMENT  
 AND TO DEMANDS CONCERNING LAO REFUGEES IN THAILAND.4

A LAO GOVERNMENT PROTEST NOTE OF NOVEMBER 18 DID NOT GO BEYOND  
 STANDARD CONDEMNATIONS OF ALLEGED THAI VIOLATIONS OF LAO SOVEREIGNTY.

{SECRET}4

2. THAILAND-CAMBODIA: AT A MEETING AT THE CAMBODIAN BORDER  
 TOWN OF POIPET ON NOVEMBER 17, CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LENG  
 SARY AND THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI APPARENTLY AGREED ON PROCE-  
 DURES FOR ESTABLISHING NEW LIAISON OFFICES AND FOR TRADE ON A GOVERN-  
 MENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS. LENG SARY ANNOUNCED THAT A JOINT LIAISON  
 COMMITTEE WILL BE LOCATED IN POIPET AND AT A NEARBY THAI TOWN TO  
 MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS AND TO DEAL WITH ANY PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE  
 TWO COUNTRIES. TRADE WILL BEGIN WITH CAMBODIAN PURCHASES OF FUEL OIL  
 AND SALT TO ASSIST CAMBODIAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC STABILITY.4  
 - AGREEMENT TO HOLD THIS BORDER MEETING HAD BEEN REACHED DURING LENG  
 SARY'S VISIT TO BANGKOK EARLIER THIS MONTH. THE CONTINUED  
 PARTICIPATION OF RANKING LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES IN SUCH TALKS UNDER-  
 SCORES THE HIGH PRIORITY THEY GIVE TO IMPROVING RELATIONS.

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

SECRET

2		5		8	
3		6		9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE LP PAGES

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IP FILES #

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DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 1975

ORIG:

UNIT: 0CI7FLO

EXT: 9106



# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

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3	6	9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

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PAGE 2 OF 2

CLASSIFICATION  
SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IP FILES #

EUROPEAN BRIEF 179-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: INCREASING TENSION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNISTS HAS GIVEN RISE TO RENEWED COMMUNIST WARNINGS OF A RIGHTIST COUP, FURTHER DISCUSSION OF A PLAN TO MOVE THE GOVERNMENT TO THE NORTH, AND, IN THE AZORES, DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING "ANARCHY" ON THE MAINLAND.4

ON TUESDAY, TWO COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LISBON DAILIES ALLEGED THAT A COUP WOULD BE LAUNCHED ON WEDNESDAY BY PROMINENT ANTI-COMMUNIST OFFICERS LED BY NORTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO. THE COMMUNISTS CHARGED THAT THE COMMANDER, UPSET BY THE LARGE PRO-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION ON SUNDAY, DECIDED ON A COUP TO PUT AN END TO "THIS SORT OF MUTINY." THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF DENIED THE STORY AND SAID LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE TWO ~~NEWSPAPERS~~ NEWSPAPERS.4

PIRES VELOSO HAS BEEN A TARGET OF THE COMMUNISTS SINCE HE WAS NAMED TO REPLACE THE PRO-COMMUNIST FORMER COMMANDER IN SEPTEMBER. LIKE OTHER PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE BEEN HARSHLY ATTACKED, PIRES VELOSO HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ZEALOUS IN

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ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

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# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IP FILES #

STAMPING OUT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN HIS COMMAND.4

ALTHOUGH IN THIS INSTANCE THE COUP RUMORS APPEAR TO BE INSPIRED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO SERVE THEIR OWN ENDS, THE POSSIBILITY OF A RIGHTIST ATTEMPT CANNOT BE RULED OUT. LEFTIST STRENGTH IN THE LISBON AREA, HOWEVER, WOULD LIKELY GIVE THE RIGHTISTS PAUSE BEFORE UNDERTAKING ACTION THERE AT THIS TIME.4

DISCUSSION OF A PLAN TO MOVE THE GOVERNMENT TO PORTO CONTINUED IN THE POPULARLY ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY. THE PLAN, FIRST BROACHED LAST WEEK WHEN PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS PREVENTED FROM LEAVING HIS RESIDENCE FOR TWO DAYS BY PRO-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS, REPORTEDLY IS FAVORED BY THE CENTER-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATS AND SOCIALISTS BUT IS SEEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS AS PREMATURE. WHILE THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHOSE JOB IS TO DRAFT THE NEW CONSTITUTION, PRESUMABLY COULD MOVE ITS OWN PROCEEDINGS TO PORTO, IT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DECIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. ONE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS DESCRIBED THE PLAN AS "HOT AIR."4

MEANWHILE, THE CONTINUING POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN LISBON PROMPTED DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE AZORES MON MONDAY. THEY WERE IN

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

RELEASING OFFICE

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

1				7	
2				8	
3				9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE OF PAGES

4 4

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IF FILES #

SUPPORT OF A TOUGH STATEMENT ISSUED LAST WEEKEND BY THE ISLANDS' GOVERNING JUNTA DECRYING WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS A STATE OF ANARCHY ON THE MAINLAND.4

THE DEMONSTRATIONS MONDAY WERE DENOUNCED BY THE SOCIALISTS, WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO DIVORCE THEMSELVES FROM SEPARATIST SENTIMENT IN THE AZORES. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CLAMOR FOR INDEPENDENCE DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH WERE WELL ATTENDED ON ALMOST ALL OF THE ISLANDS IN AN UNPRECEDENTED SHOW OF SOLIDARITY.4

THESE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO LISBON OF THE WIDE-SPREAD CONCERN IN THE CONSERVATIVE ISLANDS OVER RECENT EVENTS ON THE MAINLAND WHICH, IF NOT CHECKED, COULD ADVANCE THE INDEPENDENCE CAUSE OF THE AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2IMPDET.H

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DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 1975

ORIG:

UNIT: OCI/FLO

EXT: 9106

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IP FILES #

TO: IMMEDIATE AMMAN ROUTINE MEA BRIEF 174-75.4

1. LEBANON: SNIPERS KILLED PASSERS-BY IN SEVERAL SUBURBS OF BEIRUT ON TUESDAY. THE APPARENTLY RANDOM ATTACKS ALMOST CERTAINLY WERE CARRIED OUT BY EXTREMISTS HOPING TO UPSET THE TWO-WEEK-OLD CEASE-FIRE AND HALT THE LITTLE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS.4

DESPITE THE KILLINGS, CENTRAL BEIRUT REMAINED RELATIVELY CALM, AND THE LARGE PRIVATE MILITIAS DID NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE DRAWN INTO SUSTAINED CLASHES. THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE, FUAD KIWAN, ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD BEEN NAMED TO HEAD THE NEW 300-MAN SECURITY FORCE, AND THAT THE UNIT WOULD BE IN THE STREETS IN FORCE ON WEDNESDAY.

SPLINTER GROUPS ON THE FAR LEFT PROBABLY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR TUESDAY'S ATTACKS. AT LEAST TEN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE RECENT FIGHTING; THEY ARE NOW FEELING ESPECIALLY BELLIGERENT AS A RESULT OF PRIME MINISTER KARAMI'S OFFER LAST WEEKEND TO REACH A POLITICAL COMPROMISE WITH THE COUNTRY'S CHRISTIAN LEADERS. 4

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CLASSIFICATION  
SECRET NOFORN  
MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE PAGE 3 OF 3

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
NO INDEX  
RETURN TO PER  
IF FILES #

REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTIST GROUPS MET TUESDAY NIGHT TO "REVIEW THEIR SUPPORT" FOR KARAMI, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM BEIRUT. KAMAL JUMBLATT, HEAD OF THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEFTIST COALITION, DEMANDED EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT KARAMI SPELL OUT THE DETAILS OF THE REFORMS HE IS PROPOSING.4

IN A SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT, HOWEVER, KARAMI AVOIDED A DIRECT RESPONSE TO JUMBLATT. THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE PAST WEEK HAS LIMITED HIMSELF TO LENGTHY BUT OBSCURE STATEMENTS DESIGNED TO CONVINCE MUSLIMS THAT REFORMS ARE COMING, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ASSURING CHRISTIANS THAT THEY WILL INVOLVE "REINTERPRETATIONS" RATHER THAN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. NIGERIA: THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT A SELECTIVE PURGE OF THE SOME 250,000-MAN ARMED FORCES. THIS COULD, IN TIME, AGGRAVATE THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH ALREADY EXIST.4

THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES NUMBERED ONLY 9,000 AT THE OUTSET OF THE CIVIL WAR IN 1967. BY 1971 THE FIGURE HAD RISEN TO ABOUT

ORIG:  
UNIT:  
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1	4	7
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3	6	9

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

**CITE**

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX                    DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO                PER

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280,000, AND NOW THE ARMED FORCES REPORTEDLY ARE THE LARGEST IN  
BLACK AFRICA.4

THE EXTENT OF THE CONTEMPLATED REDUCTIONS IS UNCLEAR, BUT THE DISMISSALS ARE SAID TO BE DESIGNED TO RID THE SERVICES OF "DEAD WOOD" AND OF THOSE MOBILIZED DURING THE CIVIL WAR. IN ADDITION, MANY WILL PROBABLY BE RELIEVED OF DUTY PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THEIR 15-YEAR TENURE AND WILL RECEIVE REDUCED PENSIONS. FULL BENEFITS AS WELL AS A REHABILITATION PLAN, HOWEVER, WILL BE GRANTED THOSE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF AGE OR POOR HEALTH.

THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY FACING POTENTIAL  
OPPOSITION FROM VICTIMS OF LAST FALL'S PURGE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED  
BUREAUCRATS AND SOME SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS. A LARGE NUMBER OF  
UNEMPLOYED FORMER SERVICEMEN WILL ADD TO THE POTENTIAL FOR  
UNREST IN THE COUNTRY. {SECRET} 4

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DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 1975

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UNIT: OCT/FLO

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